

HABS DC, WASH, 215-
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C.

12p
32d

STATE

COUNTY

TOWN or VICINITY

Townsend House (Cosmos Club) (DC-273)

STRUCTURE

2121 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Limestone facing, central three-and-a-half story block (three-bays) with flanking two-story wings, 125'-1" x 123'-9", slate mansard roof on central block, truncated-hipped roofs on wings, segmental-arched dormers, balustrade at eaves, rusticated first floor, glass and metal marquise, central pavilion has four

CARD 1 of 3

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

(DC-273)

two-story fluted Composite pilasters, Louis XV exterior detailing, interior designed for lavish entertaining with elaborate plasterwork, paneling, and marble trim. Built 1899-1901; Carrère and Hastings, architects (previous house on site, the Hillyer Mansion, apparently had portions of its basement wall incorporated into new structure), addition to N., 1904, Carrère and Hastings, architects; interiors altered, extensive modifications in 1950 after purchase by Cosmos Club; Horace Peaslee, architect; five-story addition to N., 1952. Built for Richard H. Townsend,

(DC-273)

retired president of Erie and Pittsburgh Railroad. 2 ext. photos (1979, 1971), 1 int. photo (1971), 1 ext. photocopy (1950), photocopy of house previously on site (prior to 1898), 4 copies of preliminary plans (n.d.), photocopy of site plan (1950), photocopy of plan (1972); 32 data pages (1970-73). NR, JCL II.

Card prepared 1978.